GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4476
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2016
HIV/AIDS
Saraswati Shri Sumedhanand

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up Integrated Counselling and Testing Centres (ICTC) for screening/treatment of HIV/ AIDS patients in the rural areas of the country and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether the Government has requested all the States to conduct medical tests of all the prisoners/jail inmates for HIV/AIDS diagnosis and if so, the details and the present status thereof;

(c) whether the Government has initiated new measures including launching of red ribbon buses on the lines of red ribbon express trains to spread awareness about HIV/AIDS among the public and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has introduced a legislation/bill to provide free of cost and comprehensive medical treatment, protection against discrimination, etc. to the HIV/AIDS patients of the country; and

(e) if so, the details of present status of the bill and the support extended/being extended by the Government to save the HIV/AIDS patients and their children?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)
(a): Yes. NACO has established a total of 19,800 ICTC centers for HIV testing services, and also established 527 ART centers and 1108 Link ART Centers (LAC) for care, support and treatment of AIDS patients all over India in both urban and rural settings. Individuals in both urban and rural areas are availing HIV counseling & testing and treatment services through these facilities.

The State/UT wise list of ICTCs in urban and rural areas, and LACs in rural areas is placed in Annexure-I & II respectively.

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(b): Yes. As per the ICTC Operational Guidelines 2007, circulated to all State/UTs, the inmates of prisons/jails may avail HIV counseling and testing services through the ICTCs, which has been located in the same premises or through ICTC facilities which are located near to the prison/jail. The testing is voluntary after taking consent.

In India, there are 62 ICTCs functioning in prison/jail, and the State/UT wise list is placed in Annexure III

(c): The red ribbon buses on the lines of red ribbon express trains have not been initiated by government, however IEC and Exhibition Vans equipped with Audio/Video facilities, information panels and kiosks and folk performances are being used to create awareness on HIV/AIDS and promoting services/facilities across the country.

Other measures include National AIDS Toll Free Helpline 1097 for providing information and counseling about HIV/AIDS and the use of social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, flickers etc, to reach out to youth as well as other vulnerable groups.

(d) & (e): Yes. The Government has introduced HIV & AIDS (Prevention and Control Bill), 2014 to provide free of cost and comprehensive medical treatment, protection against discrimination, etc to the HIV/AIDS patients of the country.

The revised Cabinet note has been circulated to Cabinet Secretariat on 8th August, 2014.

Currently, Government is providing free treatment to nearly 9,65,000 patients out of which nearly 53,400 are children through 1,635 treatment centers across country.

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